

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMCONSUL HAMILTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2039

UNCLAS HAMILTON 140

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PGOV, BD.

SUBJ: BERMUDA CALLS FOR A NATIONAL ELECTION MAY 18.

1. AS ANTICIPATED EARLIER AND FULLY REPORTED IN THE LOCAL PRESS, THE PREMIER JACK SHARPE AT THE FRIDAY APRIL 23 MEETING OF THE PARLIAMENT ANNOUNCED HE HAD REQUESTED THE GOVERNOR TO DISSOLVE THE PARLIAMENT. SHARPE THEN SET MAY 18 AS THE DATE OF THE NATIONAL ELECTION. THE ONLY SURPRISE WAS THAT THE DATE WAS NOT MAY 20 AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED.

2. THE GOVERNMENT PARTY, UNITED BERMUDA PARTY, (UBP) HAS BEEN BUSY OVER THE LAST MONTH WITH PRIMARY ELECTIONS AT THE PARISH LEVEL. TWO PRESENT MEMBERS OF THE UBP PARLIAMENTARY MAJORITY WILLIAM COX, PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND

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SOCIAL SERVICES AND JOHN M.S. PATTON, BACK BENCHER, FORMER MINISTER WORKS AND AGRICULTURE WERE DEFEATED IN THE PRIMARIES. THREE OTHER UBP MPS, E.T. RICHARDS, FORMER PREMIER: DUDLEY SPURLING, SPEAKER OF THE PARLIAMENT: AND LT. COL. J.B. TUCKER ANNOUNCED THEY WERE RETIRING AND WOULD NOT RUN AGAIN.

3. THE OPPOSITION PARTY, PROGRESSIVE LABOR PARTY, (PLP) UNTIL SHARPE'S ANNOUNCEMENT OF A NEW ELECTION HAD NEITHER ISSUED A STATEMENT NOR HELD PRIMARIES. IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE ELECTION DAY ANNOUNCEMENT THE PLP RE-ELECTED LOIS BROWNE-EVANS,
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OPPOSITION LEADER 1968-72 TO REPLACE PRESENT OPPOSITION LEADER

WALTER ROBINSON WHO IS RETIRING.

4. FULL COVERAGE OF CANDIDATES AND PROBABLE COURSES OF THE
ELECTION BY FOLLOWING AIRGRAMS.

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Message Attributes

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